

INTERIM REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DEBEN
for the year 1943.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith my Report, again Interim in character, for the year 1943.

STATISTICS.

Population. A calculated figure is given by the Registrar-General for civilian population, viz. 22,640.

| <u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 306 | 169 | 137 |
| Illegitimate | 30 | 19 | 11 |

This gives a Birth Rate per 1,000 population of 14.8; (England and Wales 16.5).

| <u>STILL BIRTHS.</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 2 | - |

This gives a Still Birth Rate of 0.31 per 1,000 population. (England and Wales 0.51).

| <u>DEATHS.</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| | 281 | 134 | 147 |

The Crude Death Rate is therefore 12.4 per 1,000 population. (Death Rate for England and Wales 12.1).

| <u>DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.</u> | <u>Rate per 1,000 Births.</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Puerperal Sepsis | 2.9 | 1 |
| Other Puerperal Causes | 2.9 | 1 |

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births | 29.8 (England & Wales 49) |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 | |
| Legitimate Live Births | 32.7 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 | |
| Illegitimate Live Births | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 50 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | Nil |

WATER SUPPLIES

The Rural District of Deben lies partly on the chalk, and, towards the coast, partly on the cragsand strata. Most of the area derives its water from shallow wells into the sand, or from bores into the deeper chalk measures. The level of the subsoil water varies in different parishes, so that there are some neighbourhoods that are less well favoured than others as far as water supplies go. Both types of source, well and bore alike, have a high figure for hardness. Some parishes depend largely upon pond supplies and rainwater tanks. These areas suffer in seasons of drought.

Piped water supplies are furnished in 31 of the 64 parishes comprising the Deben Rural District. The Local Authority has two zones, supplied as to four parishes by surface spring waters and as to seventeen parishes by two deep bores, the water being pumped to two water towers and thence by other Water Undertakings supply parishes as shown:-

Woodbridge Waterworks Company
Felixstowe Waterworks Company
Ipswich Corporation

1 Parish
7 Parishes
2 Parishes

In all, piped water is supplied to almost half the parishes, of which the population totals more than a third of that of the whole district. The supply is constant and adequate, and there is no evidence of any plumb-solvent effect of the water upon the supply piping.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1943.

| Disease | Total noti- fied | Age Groups. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Admit- ted to Hos- pital | Total deaths |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 up | | | |
| Measles | 512 | 263 | 37 | 43 | 36 | 72 | 198 | 72 | 15 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | nil | |
| Whooping-cough | 37 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | nil | |
| Pneumonia | 34 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | |
| Diphtheria | 14 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 10 | nil | |
| Scarlet fever | 22 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 12 | nil | |
| Erysipelas | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | - | nil | |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | nil | |
| Dysentery | 40 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 12 | 20 | - | - | nil | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | |
| Infective Jaundice | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | nil | |

During 1943 whooping-cough declined in incidence, whereas measles showed an epidemic curve upwards. In all 517 cases of measles were notified, with no deaths.

Notifications received in the case of diphtheria were 14; of these the end result of investigation in hospital was that 6 were found to be carriers, and 5 were found not to be suffering from either carrier or clinical symptoms thus leaving only 3 frankly diphtheritic cases, 1 of them non-civilian.

Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out as usual during the year. The figures for the whole year showed that protection had been conferred on children up to fifteen years of age to the following extent:

Children under 5 years 85% Children 5 to 15 years 90%

The actual figures for 1943 were:-

Children under 5 years 294 Children 5 to 15 years 140

The six notifications of diphtheria among children under 15 included 3 who were actually only carriers, and two non-diphtheritic throats. The one definitely diphtheritic case was mild and the patient recovered completely.

TUBERCULOSIS

An analysis is tabulated below:

| <u>Age Groups</u> | <u>NEW CASES</u> | | | | <u>DEATHS</u> | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---|----------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-pulmonary</u> | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 5 | - | - | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 20 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 55 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 up | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |

During 1943 there were 16 cases removed from the Tuberculosis Register for the reasons noted hereunder:

| | <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Total</u> |
|--|------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------|
| | M | F | M | F | |
| Diagnosis not established | - | 2 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Removed to other districts | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| Cured | - | 2 | - | 1 | 3 |
| Cases of Tuberculosis from other Districts coming into the area were:- | 5 | 1 | - | - | 6 |

Of the above cases two were first brought to the notice of the Public Health Department by the Death Returns, no notifications having been received prior to the death of the patient.

All other matters are held over until after the war.

I remain,
Your obedient servant,

CHARLES M. WHITEFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

